

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08298 251551Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
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R 251523Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2492
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8298

FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BGEN, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN DIVERSIFIED INVESTMENTS LTD.

REF: STATE 168359

1. AMBASSADOR DEPARTED BEFORE ANYTHING COULD BE DEVELOPED.
MAKING LOWSKEY INQUIRIES AND WILL REPORT ANYTHING USEFUL.
CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY PRESENTLY INVOLVING FLOUR BUSINESS
BECAUSE OF CONTINUING SHORTAGE BUT UNABLE DETERMINESNOW
WHETHER THIS WILL BENEFIT BAKER GROUP.

2. FYI FIKA PROBABLY PROTECTED BY NORTHERNER BUT NO IDEA
WHO ORSHOW STRONG. BAKER'S PROBLEMS THOUGHT TO STEM FROM
NIGERIAN PARTNERS' DESIRES TO GET RID OF HIM OR HIS GROUP,
ALTHOUGH THIS UNCONFIRMED. ANOTHER GROUP WITH A SMALL AMERICAN
INTEREST BLAMES FIKA, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, FOR THWARTING ITS
PROJECT BUILD SMALL FLOUR MILL APAPA. ACCORDING SOURCE, LATTER
GROUP OBTAINED PERMIT AND 20-YEAR LEASE ON RAILROAD LAND IN
1969 AND BEGAN BUILDING MILL ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO. ONE YEAR AGO,
WHEN MILL HALF COMPLETED, FIKA INSTRUCTED GROUP TAKE MILL DOWN AND
MOVE IT TO BADAGRY, WHICH GROUP SAYS IS UNECONOMIC ASIDE FROM BEING
UNJUST. SOURCE SAYS FIKA IS PAID OFF BY THE INDUSTRY GIANT, GREEK-
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AMERICAN OWNED FLOUR MILLS OF NIGERIA, WHICH GOUGING CONSUMERS AND
SEEKS NATION-WIDE MONOPOLY. IT MAY BE ATTEMPTING REPLACE BAKER
GROUP IN SAPELE. SINCE THEN CALABAR FLUR MILL CLOSED DOWN AND
SEVERE SHORTAGE FLOUR HAS DEVELOPED. IN WHAT SOUNDS LIKE SCAPE-
GOATING, PRESS REPORTED LAST WEEK THAT UNNAMED FLOUR MILLS OF
NIGERIA OFFICIALS ARRESTED. ALSO, AFTER YEAR OF STALEMATE THWARTED
MILL GROUP APAPA HAS RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS WITH FMG, AIMING TO

COMPLETE MILL AND ENTER PRODUCTION WITHIN SIX MONTHS OR WIN
COMPENSATION FOR LOSING PERMIT AND LEASE. MEANWHILE PRESS SAYS
FMG MAY BUY CONTROL OF FLOUR MILLS OF NIGERIA, WHICH MUST
INDIGENIZE BY 1979. ALL FOREGOING RUMOR, GOSSIP AND SURMISE FROM
INTERESTED PARTIES WHICH INTERESTING BUT UNHELPFUL TO BAKER.
INTERESTING SPECULATE ON EFFECT ON FIKA'S TENURE OF PINNING BLAME
FOR FLOUR SHORTAGE ON HIM BUT THISSUNLIKELY AS NOBODY INVOLVED
WANTS PUBLICITYSOR CONFRONTATION. END FYI.
WYMAN

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